S. S. McCLURE, Limited
30 LAFAYETTE PLACE
NEW YORK CITY

October 17, 1895

THE NEW LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

WITH 300 ILLUSTRATIONS,

Beginning in McClure's Magazine for November.

Dear Sir:

The most remarkable picture in this collection is undoubtedly the portrait of Abraham Lincoln showing him somewhere between the age of thirty and forty.

THE EARLIEST PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN

An eminent sculptor, who has made a life study of Lincoln's physiognomy and has collected every picture and fact that he could, believes that this must be a picture of Lincoln under thirty-five. But the Hon. Robert T. Lincoln, who has loaned us this daguerreotype, is not certain whether Lincoln may not have been forty years old. In any event, it is a new and extraordinary Lincoln of priceless value in giving to people of to-day an idea of how Lincoln looked as a young man.

There are other interesting portraits of Lincoln in this collection, and nearly forty pictures of scenes of Lincoln's career and of people intimately connected with his earlier years. The complete magazine containing this article will be mailed you in due course.

If there are any facts or pictures in this that you would like to reproduce in your columns you are at liberty to do so (excepting the earliest portrait of Lincoln, which is protected by special copyright), provided such reproduction does not occur before the 25th of October, which is three days before the publication of the magazine; and further, provided that full credit is given to the magazine, and that you do not use more than one-third of the article.

This is the opening chapter of a new life of Lincoln, which will be more thoroughly illustrated than any previous work of the kind, and which will pay more attention to Lincoln's earlier years than has ever been done before.

It seems to me that no greater service can be rendered to the youth of this country than to give, in simple, straightforward language, the career of Abraham Lincoln, and set forth how he, without any of the ordinary advantages and simply because he persisted in endeavoring to improve his condition, studying at odd moments, fitting himself to be a lawyer, achieved the ability to discharge the most important services to his country.

NEW MATERIAL AND ANECDOTES

We have been able to secure new and illuminative anecdotes and facts in regard to almost every period of Lincoln's life; at the same time a thorough search has been made through various documents and publications in historical libraries and elsewhere, many of which will be set forth here for the first time. At the same time we have not neglected a careful examination of the standard biographies of Lincoln, so that this will really be a life of Abraham Lincoln made fresh and vivid by this new material.

FORTY PORTRAITS OF LINCOLN

A great feature will be as complete a collection of Lincoln portraits as can be made. We have over forty different important portraits of Lincoln in hand, and not a week passes but we are able to add to this collection; only last week we were able to secure another photograph. As soon as we announced our intention to publish a life of Lincoln, we received communications and pictures from different parts of the country which have greatly added to our material.

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http://www.archive.org/details/newlifeofabraham00mccl

It is only of late years that the method of lavish illustration which we shall employ in this life of Lincoln has become a feature of magazines, and in applying it to the life of Lincoln we have a field that has been very little worked.

SCENES OF LINCOLN'S LIFE

Again, the scenes of Lincoln's life will be much more fully illustrated than ever before. Special representatives of the magazine, with the camera, have explored different places where Lincoln had his homes during his earlier years. It seems to surprise most people that Abraham Lincoln grew from childhood to manhood in Southern Indiana, or, from the age of seven to twenty-one. This period of Lincoln's life will extend partly through two installments, and the pictures of the place where he lived in Southern Indiana are fuller than given before, and there will be nearly a dozen other pictures and portraits illustrating his life in Indiana. The same method is being applied to his early life in Illinois. During the past thirty years collections, illustrative of Lincoln's life, have been made by a great many people. Most of these collections, and certainly nearly all the important ones, have been kindly placed at our disposal, so that in publishing this life of Lincoln we have the results of many years of devoted labor on the part of many people. Many of these people are wealthy and have been able to spend a great deal of money, and no small part of the success of this life, from a pictorial standpoint, is due to them.

PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF LINCOLN'S FRIENDS

This life of Lincoln is being prepared with the kindly coöperation and assistance of many who were Lincoln's most intimate friends. No attempt will be made to rake up various disputed questions which have found a place in some recent lives of Lincoln to the distress of Lincoln's best friends. There will be a great many anecdotes, many of which will be new, which will be published when they can throw a brighter light upon the character of Lincoln than mere description would. I honestly think that this will be one of the most satisfactory as well as one of the most interesting biographies ever published.

One feature of this life will be the very full notes with each picture, so that just to examine the pictures, if you read the notes, would give one a very good idea of Lincoln's career.

Among the contributors may be mentioned the Hon. Joseph Medill, John G. Nicolay, co-author with John Hay of the Nicolay-Hay life of Lincoln, the Hon. Thomas J. Henderson, representative from Illinois, the late Mrs. Dr. Brown, who had just completed her reminiscences of life at the White House during the first six months, who was present at the wedding of Abraham Lincoln, and who brushes aside many of the misconceptions in regard to Lincoln's marriage.

THE "LOST SPEECH" OF LINCOLN

One of the most noted features will be a reproduction, as far as possible, of the famous "lost" speech of Lincoln, which he delivered in Bloomington in 1856, from very full notes made on the occasion.

In the editing of this life Miss Tarbell has visited a great many of the towns and cities in Illinois where Lincoln was known, and has secured from hundreds of people, from their own lips, their recollections of Lincoln.

In the preparation of this work we have received cordial assistance from nearly every quarter, and if we can judge from the interest shown in helping us to prepare the life, it will certainly prove to be one of the most successful ventures in magazine journalism that could be made.

Inasmuch as the price of the magazine is only $1 a year, it seems to us that this life of Lincoln should reach nearly every family in the country.

Very truly yours,

S. S. McCLURE.

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